

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A protective element, comprising:

a heat-generating member; and

a low-melting metal member on a substrate between a pair of electrodes that pass current through the low-melting member, in which the low-melting metal member is blown out by the heat generated by the heat-generating member;

the low-melting metal member having a groove provided in the center that extends in the direction of current flow that~~wherein a thin-walled component formed in the low-melting metal member blows out as an effect of the heat-generating member generating heat, so that the lateral cross section along the entire length of the low-melting metal member in the direction of the current flow divides into at least two independent cross sectionsso that the lateral cross section of at least part of the low-melting metal member divides into at least two independent cross sections.~~

5. (Canceled)